

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 3, 4, 7-9 and 18-21 and add new claims 24-33 as follows:

a1 3. (Amended) The wet-responsive fiber as claimed in claim 1 [or 2], wherein said resin having the anionic group is at least one resin selected from the group consisting of polyacrylic acid salt, carboxymethyl cellulose, carboxymethyl starch, alginic acid, xanthane gum and polymethacrylic acid salt.

4. (Amended) The wet-responsive fiber as claimed in claim 1 [or 2], wherein said resin having the cationic group is at least one resin selected from the group consisting of cationized cellulose, cationized starch, cationized cyamopsis gum, cationized dextrin and poly(dimethylmethylenepiperidinium chloride).

7. (Amended) The wet-responsive fiber as claimed in claim 5 [or 6], wherein said base resin is at least one resin selected from the group consisting of viscose rayon, polynosic rayon, cupra and saponified acetate.

a2 8. (Amended) The wet-responsive fiber as claimed in claim 5 [or 6], wherein said resin having the anionic group is at least one resin selected from the group consisting of polyacrylic acid salt, carboxymethyl cellulose, carboxymethyl starch, alginic acid, xanthane gum and polymethacrylic acid salt.

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9. (Amended) The wet-responsive fiber as claimed in claim 5 [or 6], wherein said resin having the cationic group is at least one resin selected from the group consisting of cationized cellulose, cationized starch, cationized cyamopsis gum, cationized dextrin and poly(dimethylmethylenepiperidinium chloride).

18. (Amended) The nonwoven fabric as claimed in claim 13 [or 15], wherein said regenerated cellulose is at least one resin selected from the group consisting of viscose rayon, polynosic rayon, cupra and saponified acetate.

19. (Amended) The nonwoven fabric as claimed in claim 12, [13 or 15], wherein said cationic resin is at least one resin selected from the group consisting of cationized cellulose, cationized starch, cationized cyamopsis gum, cationized dextrin and poly(dimethylmethylenepiperidinium chloride).

20. (Amended) The nonwoven fabric as claimed in claim 12, [13 or 15], wherein said anionic resin is at least one resin selected from the group consisting of polyacrylic acid salt, carboxymethyl cellulose, carboxymethyl starch, alginic acid, xanthane gum and polymethacrylic acid salt.

21. (Amended) The nonwoven fabric as claimed in [any one of claims 12 to 20] claim 12, which has water decomposability.

Add the following new claims 24-33:

--24. The wet-responsive fiber as claimed in claim 2, wherein said resin having the anionic group is at least one resin selected from the group consisting of polyacrylic acid salt, carboxymethyl cellulose, carboxymethyl starch, alginic acid, xanthane gum and polymethacrylic acid salt.

25. The wet-responsive fiber as claimed in claim 2, wherein said resin having the cationic group is at least one resin selected from the group consisting of cationized cellulose, cationized starch, cationized cyamopsis gum, cationized dextrin and poly(dimethylmethylenepiperidinium chloride).

26. The wet-responsive fiber as claimed in claim 6, wherein said base resin is at least one resin selected from the group consisting of viscose rayon, polynosic rayon, cupra and saponified acetate.

27. The wet-responsive fiber as claimed in claim 6, wherein said resin having the anionic group is at least one resin selected from the group consisting of polyacrylic acid salt, carboxymethyl cellulose, carboxymethyl starch, alginic acid, xanthane gum and polymethacrylic acid salt.

28. The wet-responsive fiber as claimed in claim 6, wherein said resin having the cationic group is at least one resin selected from the group consisting of cationized cellulose, cationized starch, cationized cyamopsis gum, cationized dextrin and poly(dimethylmethylenepiperidinium chloride).

29. The nonwoven fabric as claimed in claim 15, wherein said regenerated cellulose is at least one resin selected from the group consisting of viscose rayon, polynosic rayon, cupra and saponified acetate.

30. The nonwoven fabric as claimed in claim 13, wherein said cationic resin is at least one resin selected from the group consisting of cationized cellulose, cationized starch, cationized cyamopsis gum, cationized dextrin and poly(dimethylmethylenepiperidinium chloride).

31. The nonwoven fabric as claimed in claim 15, wherein said cationic resin is at least one resin selected from the group consisting of cationized cellulose, cationized starch, cationized cyamopsis gum, cationized dextrin and poly(dimethylmethylenepiperidinium chloride).

32. The nonwoven fabric as claimed in claim 13, wherein said anionic resin is at least one resin selected from the group consisting of polyacrylic acid salt, carboxymethyl cellulose, carboxymethyl starch, alginic acid, xanthane gum and polymethacrylic acid salt.